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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,324	03/31/2004	Sheng-Hui Yang	12497/3	9132

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EXAMINER

SIPOS, JOHN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3721

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/816,324

Applicant(s)

YANG, SHENG-HUI

Examiner

John Sipos

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS BASED ON FORMAL MATTERS

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. ' 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under **35 U.S.C. ' 112, second paragraph**, as being **indefinite** for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "complimentary unit", referring to another structure similar to the first rotary member is unclear in that it does not positively set forth any structure. It is therefore unclear what is the scope of this complimentary unit. The claims should be amended to clarify the structure of this unit.

It is also noted that the last paragraph of claim 1 recites no structure but only a function that allows the pivoting of one the units. It is unclear what structure is applicant attempting to claim in this paragraph. The claim could be amended to recite a mounting structure for one of the units that are pivotably connected to the support.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS BASED ON PRIOR ART

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. ' 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by

another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under **35 U.S.C. ' 102(b)** as being clearly anticipated by the patent to Cameron (2,435,127) or Risser (1,435,739). Each of these references shows a an apparatus for tightening caps on containers comprising of a support, a first rotary unit (64 and 96, respectively) rotating about a first axis, a complimentary unit (65 and 98) rotating about a second axis parallel to the first axis and forming a passage for the cap, a driving unit (53/54 and 74) for driving the two rotary members, and mounting structures (58/63 and 76) carrying the units that are pivotably connected to the machine support about a pivot axis parallel to the axis of the two units and which are biased toward each to allow the widening of the passage when a cap is pushed through.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. ' 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6 are rejected under **35 U.S.C. ' 103(a)** as being unpatentable over the patent to Cameron (2,435,127) or Risser (1,435,739). The references do not show a driving arrangement that comprises meshing gears.

The patent to Cameron shows a driving unit comprising of a gear 53/54 on the pivot axis 51/52 which drives a gear 56/61 on the unit rotary axis through a chain 55/60. Since the meshing of gears is well known in the mechanical arts, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to eliminate the intermediate chain and directly mesh the gears of Cameron to positively drive the rotary units.

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The patent to Risser shows a driving unit comprising of a pulley 72 on the pivot axis 66 which drives a pulley 92 on the unit rotary axis through a belt 74. Since the meshing of gears is well known in the mechanical arts, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to eliminate the pulley/belt arrangement of Risser and substitute directly meshing gears to positively drive the rotary units.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 7-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but **would be allowable if rewritten in independent form** to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES CITED

The following prior art is made of record but has not been relied upon in the rejection of claims. However, the prior art is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited art shows capping machines comprising of complimentary rotary units that are pivotably mounted on the machine support with a spring that biases the units toward each to allow the widening of the passage when a cap is pushed through.

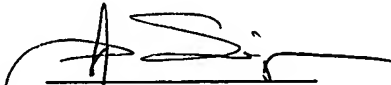
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to **Examiner John Sipos** at telephone number **571-272-4468**. The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Rinaldi Rada, can be reached at **571-272-4467**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is **571-272-3700**.


John Sipos
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721

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